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**Health Department Hosts Meeting 6/26 to Discuss
Highland Park Community Health Center Plans**

The Lake County Health Department/Community Health Center will host a town hall meeting to inform Highland Park residents about the new community health center it is building adjacent to the Karger Center. The meeting will take place on Thursday, June 26, at 6:30 p.m. at the Karger Center, 1850 Green Bay Road in Highland Park. During the meeting, Health Department staff will explain its mission to increase access to health care, describe what services the new facility will offer, and discuss plans for parking.

The idea for a Highland Park clinic originated several years ago when a group of social service agencies, concerned community citizens, LCHD/CHC staff and medical providers conducted a needs assessment with area residents. The assessment identified a substantial unmet need for primary health care services in the community and validated the data the Board of Health had in its strategic plan. One substantial finding indicated that 19 percent of Lake County's total Medicaid population resides there.

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The Health Department has been planning for several years to build a community health center in the Highland Park area, and has raised more than \$2 million to cover the costs of construction. When completed in 2004, the facility will provide health care services for the uninsured, under insured and under served. It will offer primary care and limited specialty medical services for acute and chronic conditions; family planning; prenatal care; immunizations; pediatric care; preventive and restorative dental services; emergency medical services; 24-hour on call coverage; diagnostic laboratory services; pharmacy; transportation; referral/case management services; health education; nutrition services; WIC services; and disease screening.

During its first two years of operation, the health center is projected to provide an estimated 6,000 medical visits and 1,000 dental visits annually. When the clinic is fully established, it is projected to provide 10,000 medical visits and 2,000 dental visits.

The Highland Park Community Health Center will complement the four existing Health Department community health centers in Waukegan, Zion, North Chicago and Round Lake Park. These centers as a whole provide health care services to over 30,000 patients, of which over 14,000 are uninsured.

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